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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Letter dated 31 December 2009 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to you today to draw your attention, once again, to the grave consequences of the continued illegal actions of Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Israel continues to recklessly and flagrantly pursue its illegal colonization campaign, particularly in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, destroying the contiguity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Territory and destroying the prospects for a peaceful settlement.

This week, the Israeli Government authorized the construction of yet another 700 new settlement housing units in the illegal Israeli settlement built on Jabal Abu Ghneim, also known as "Har Homa". This action is clear evidence of Israel's insistence on defying the collective will of the international community by forcing such unlawful faits accomplis on the Palestinian people through its military might. The Jabal Abu Ghneim settlement is expanding at an unprecedented rate and, in the process, is devouring thousands of acres of Palestinian-owned land in Bethlehem and Occupied East Jerusalem. Israel, the occupying Power, considers this to be part of the so-called Greater Jerusalem and claims that it is not included under its self-proclaimed so-called moratorium on settlement construction in the Occupied West Bank.

Moreover, on 29 December 2009, Israel's Defense Ministry approved plans to legalize the construction of 15 permanent structures being built in the illegal Israeli settlement of "Kiryat Netafim" in the Occupied West Bank on private lands owned by Palestinians. This approval has come after the Israeli Supreme Court issued a restraining order against the construction of the structures in response to a petition filed by the Peace Now Movement in this connection. The Israeli Government has also announced a plan to advance the process of planning and construction in this illegal settlement.

These illegal Israeli actions and measures are being perpetrated in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and other relevant provisions of international law and numerous relevant United Nations Security Council and

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General Assembly resolutions, and are also being perpetrated in flagrant defiance of and as a challenge to the will of the international community.

Given these dangerous developments, we reiterate once more our adamant rejection of these illegal actions and false classifications by the occupying Power. Moreover, the international community, including the United Nations, must recall the moral and legal responsibility towards the Palestinian people until a just resolution is achieved as regards their plight and the injustice inflicted upon them. This responsibility must prompt international actors to take measures and actions that extend far beyond timid language and statements of goodwill and that will actually compel the occupying Power to cease its illegal actions forthwith.

These illegal Israeli actions, which are devouring the prospects for an independent, viable and contiguous State of Palestine, living side by side with Israel in peace and security on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, must be firmly confronted and rejected by the international community with unwavering determination and with all of the diplomatic and political tools and means available to the international community. Not only are continued silence and an ineffective reaction to these actions insufficient, but they reflect an unacceptable degree of acquiescence and agreement and are in clear violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. It is high time that Israel, the occupying Power, is compelled to realize that its continued impunity is a clear threat to international peace and security and shall be met with swift consequences if it does not cease. The realization of peace is dependent upon this.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 352 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 28 December 2009 (A/ES-10/472-S/2009/675), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Letter dated 6 January 2009 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At the onset of this new year, it is my deep regret to inform you that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory remains critical, with the situation of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip remaining particularly dire, as a result of the flagrant violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, that continue to be perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power.

Although one year has passed since the lethal and destructive Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip, so-called "Operation Cast Lead", the humanitarian, social, economic, living and psychological conditions of the Palestinian civilian population remain grave. The population remains traumatized from the brutal crimes, including war crimes, perpetrated by the occupying Power during that onslaught. Further, the situation on the ground has continued to deteriorate owing to Israel's continued imposition of its illegal, unethical and suffocating blockade. The human and physical toll of this blockade continues to mount, as Israel continues to breach its obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and to flatly ignore the appeals of the international community to end the blockade and open Gaza's border crossings for the regular and sustained movement of persons and goods.

The blockade has prevented the reconstruction of the thousands of destroyed homes, properties and institutions and of vital civilian infrastructure, obstructing the physical recovery of the population, which continues to live amidst the rubble and ruin. The blockade also continues to prevent Gaza's economic recovery, as the import of essential and commercial goods continues to be restricted and exports continue to be completely prohibited. This has exacerbated the already precarious socio-economic situation, with loss of livelihoods and rampant unemployment causing ever-rising levels of poverty and despair among the Palestinian people, in addition to a wide range of other maladies, including the continued decline of health

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and education standards and the decay of infrastructure, such as health and sanitation systems, with manifold negative consequences.

At the same time, Israel, the occupying Power, continues its illegal colonization campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in and around East Jerusalem. Settlements, the Wall and related infrastructure continue to be built by the occupying Power on confiscated Palestinian land in grave breach of international law and United Nations resolutions and in blatant defiance of the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion of 9 July 2004. Israeli settlers also continue their lawlessness and brutality against Palestinian civilians and their properties, including in Occupied East Jerusalem, further raising tensions and inflaming sensitivities between the two sides.

Less than a week after the Israeli Government announced its plan to construct 700 new settlement units in Occupied East Jerusalem, the so-called Israeli "Jerusalem Planning and Building Committee" has approved the construction of four new buildings on the Mount of Olives, a Palestinian residential area in Occupied East Jerusalem. Moreover, today the Israeli Government approved the construction of yet another illegal settlement in the Shu'fat neighbourhood in Occupied East Jerusalem.

The continuation of this illegal, reckless and destructive colonization campaign once again confirms Israel's deliberate intent to defy international law and the unequivocal calls of the international community for the immediate and full cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, we regret to reiterate that continued international inaction has clearly emboldened Israel's defiance and intransigence.

While the Palestinian leadership takes positive note of the statements made by the United States Department of State and the Presidency of the European Union denouncing recent announcements of settlement construction, this latest development provides ample proof that such statements alone will not stop Israel's unlawful attempts to devoid the two-State solution of its very meaning, thus undermining the prospects for ever realizing peace and security in the region. We thus urge the international community, especially the Security Council, to uphold its own resolutions with effective actions that demonstrate responsibility and commitment to international peace and security.

Serious, collective efforts must be exerted to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all of its violations and breaches of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The shameful blockade and collective punishment of the entire Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip must be brought to an end, the confiscation, destruction and colonization of Palestinian land must be brought to an end, and all other illegal Israeli measures and policies against the Palestinian people must be brought to an end. International law demands this. Respect for human rights demands this. The quest for peace demands this.

The instruments for upholding the law and for promoting international peace and security are before the international community. What is missing and is required is clear: implementation and compliance and the will to ensure them. International law and United Nations resolutions must be implemented, and their flagrant violation must not be met with continued acquiescence or surrender; all efforts must

be exerted to uphold the laws and norms that govern our international system and that are intended to protect the human rights and dignity of all peoples and to promote peace and security in our world. As we begin a new decade, it is only this that will truly remedy both the grave situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the suspension of the peace process and provide us all with a genuine opportunity to achieve the two-State solution for peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 353 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 31 December 2009 (A/ES-10/473-S/2010/1), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Letter dated 12 January 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am compelled to once again draw your attention to the critical situation in Occupied East Jerusalem as a result of the continuing illegal measures being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power. The Holy City remains the target of a deliberate, aggressive and illegal policy by the occupying Power to alter its demographic composition and its distinctly Palestinian Arab character and nature and to sever the city from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

In grave breach of international law and in absolute disrespect for the calls of the international community, Israel continues and is intensifying its illegal attempts to consolidate its control over Occupied East Jerusalem and to artificially create an overwhelming Jewish majority in the city via the expulsion or forced displacement of the indigenous Palestinian population and the transfer of more Israeli settlers. The construction of settlements, the construction of the Wall, the eviction of Palestinian families, the demolition of Palestinian homes, the closure of Palestinian institutions and provocative actions in and near holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem by the occupying Power continue unabated. All such actions are not only unlawful, but are highly inflammatory, threatening to further fuel existing sensitivities and to further destabilize the tense and fragile situation on the ground.

In this regard, I must refer to the ongoing Israeli practice of revoking the residency rights of Palestinian inhabitants of East Jerusalem. For decades now, the occupying Power has been stripping Palestinian Jerusalemites of their identity cards, which ensure their residency in East Jerusalem, as part of a larger policy aimed at forcing out as many Palestinians as possible from the city and advancing its Judaization.

Reports have revealed that in the year 2008, Israel revoked the Jerusalem residency rights of nearly 5,000 Palestinians, forbidding them from living in the city that for thousands of them is the place of their birth. This figure represents the highest number of residency revocations in a one-year period since the occupation began in 1967. In this regard, records indicate that from the start of the occupation

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in 1967 until 2007, Israel revoked the residency rights of nearly 9,000 Palestinians, using a range of arbitrary pretexts and measures. The 2008 figure thus starkly illustrates and confirms the intensification and extent of Israel's colonization and de-population measures in East Jerusalem in recent years. Indeed, recent reports indicate that tens of thousands more Palestinian Jerusalemites are under threat of being stripped of their residency rights as Israel continues to pursue this illegal, reckless and dangerous policy to ethnically cleanse Occupied East Jerusalem of its indigenous population and to further entrench its illegal, de facto annexation of the city.

We have sent numerous letters alerting you to the critical situation in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a result of Israel's illegal colonization policies. We have repeatedly appealed to the international community to act to implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. The Council has repeatedly demanded the cessation of settlement activities and, in many resolutions, has specifically addressed Israel's colonization measures in Occupied East Jerusalem, calling for the immediate halt of all such measures and deeming the changes caused by these Israeli actions to be illegitimate, null and void. However, in spite of these resolutions and despite the firm calls, particularly in the recent period, by the international community for cessation of Israeli settlement activities, Israel continues to breach the law with impunity and has in fact intensified its colonization campaign. This is not only undermining the attempts to resume the peace process, but is directly endangering the prospects for and the physical viability of the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

Amidst grave concerns in this regard, the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization has once again raised this issue to the highest level. The Palestinian leadership thus continues to consult all concerned parties with a view to drawing attention to and mobilizing action to urgently and collectively address this extremely serious matter. This is absolutely imperative for safeguarding the prospects for a peaceful settlement. We thus reiterate our call upon the international community, including the Security Council, to take action, including via practical measures, to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to finally bring an end to its illegal colonization of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to respect the rule of law and comply with its legal obligations, including the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant United Nations resolutions.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 354 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 6 January 2010 (A/ES-10/474-S/2010/13), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations